

CONTACT: Monique Whitney, APR  
Pharmacists Society for the State of New York  
m. (505) 480-4150  
Monique@TruthRx.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 6, 2018

**PSSNY COMMENDS NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE FOR PASSAGE OF  
ANTI-GAG CLAUSE LEGISLATION**

**A8781/S6940 Restores the Right of Open Dialog Between Patients and Pharmacists, Ensures State's  
Consumers Have Access to Affordable Medications**

ALBANY, NY (March 6, 2018) – The Pharmacists Society of the State of New York (PSSNY) commends the New York state legislature for its passage of bills A8781/S6940 -- legislation that prohibits the use of gag clauses in contracts between pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and pharmacies, restoring the right of free and open dialog between patients and their pharmacists, and helping ensure New Yorkers have access to affordable medications.

The bills were sponsored by A.M. Linda B. Rosenthal and Sen. Kemp Hannon, respectively.

“The new legislation represents an important step toward stemming the high costs of prescription drugs, saving the state’s consumers and taxpayers from having to foot more than their fair share of the bill at the pharmacy counter,” said Kathy Febraio, PSSNY Executive Director. “The new law will also help level the playing field for New York’s community pharmacies, most of whom must contract with PBMs in order to have patients to serve.”

PBMs have come under greater scrutiny in recent months as patients, healthcare providers and legislators begin to question the source of escalating drug prices and other issues embedded within the prescription medication arm of the U.S. healthcare system. New York joins a list of states that have begun to pass legislation that would increase oversight of PBMs and eliminate certain types of PBM business practices that limit patient choice and ultimately harm locally-owned pharmacies, especially in small and rural communities.

The Pharmacists Society of the State of New York (PSSNY) has served as the society for the state’s pharmacists for more than 138 years providing advocacy and resources to pharmacists to improve patient care. To learn more about PSSNY, visit [www.PSSNY.org](http://www.PSSNY.org).

# # #